

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 00218 01 OF 02 071318Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 NEA-10 /081 W

----- 002985

R 071305Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5483

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00218

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ADENAUER'S BIRTH

SUMMARY: THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KONRAD ADENAUER'S BIRTH HAS BEEN THE OCCASION FOR NUMEROUS TRIBUTES TO THE POSTWAR GERMAN STATESMAN. NOT ONLY HAVE CDU AND CSU POLITICIANS SOUGHT TO WRAP THEMSELVES IN THE MANTLE OF "DER ALTE'S" GREATNESS, BUT EVEN SPD AND FDP POLITICIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PORTRAY SOCIAL-LIBERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AS THE LOGICAL EXTENSION OF ADENAUER'S POLICIES. THE SPD/FDP PLOY CAN BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE POLITICAL BENEFITS FOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 00218 01 OF 02 071318Z

THE CHRISTIAN PARTIES RESULTING FROM THE COINCIDENCE

THAT THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMES IN AN ELECTION YEAR. IT IS CLEAR THAT ADENAUER'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE POST-WORLD WAR II PERIOD IS FULLY ACCEPTED BY THE GERMAN PUBLIC. THIS IS RECOGNIZED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS AS A FACT OF GERMAN POLITICAL LIFE. ADENAUER'S PRESENT POPULARITY MAY ALSO REFLECT A SHORTAGE OF STATESMEN OF HIS STATURE ON THE GERMAN POLITICAL SCENE TODAY. END SUMMARY

1. THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KONRAD ADENAUER'S BIRTH ON JANUARY 5, 1876 HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THE FRG. QUITE NATURALLY, CDU AND CSU POLITICIANS, INCLUDING CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL AND CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS, MADE GLOWING SPEECHES IN PRAISE OF THE FRG'S FIRST CHANCELLOR AND USED THE OCCASION TO PORTRAY THE PRESENT UNION PARTIES AS THE BEARERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. SPEAKING BEFORE AN AUDIENCE IN BONN'S BEETHOVEN HALLE ON THE EVE OF THE ANNIVERSARY, KOHL LAUDED ADENAUER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LEADING THE FRG INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE FREE WORLD, CREATING INTERNATIONAL TRUST AND RESPECT FOR WEST GERMANY, ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND ISRAEL, AND STABILIZING THE DEMOCRATIC ORDER IN THE FRG. CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS, SPEAKING OF ADENAUER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, STRESSED HIS OWN ROLE IN WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE CDU LEADER DURING HIS 14-YEAR REIGN AS CHANCELLOR.

2. INTERESTINGLY, IT WAS NOT JUST THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO SOUGHT TO LINK THEMSELVES TO ADENAUER. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, IN A PRETAPED NATION-WIDE TV ADDRESS (HE WAS IN GREECE DURING THE ANNIVERSARY), PRAISED HIM AND DESCRIBED THE "MITBESTIMMUNG" AND "OSTPOLITIK" (PARTICULARLY THE POLISH AGREEMENTS) POLICIES OF THE SPD AS THE NATURAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLIER ADENAUER POLICIES. FEDERAL PRESIDENT AND FORMER FDP CHAIRMAN SCHEEL ALSO STRESSED THE CONTINUITY OF THE SOCIAL-LIBERAL "OSTPOLITIK" WITH ADENAUER'S FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE OF RECONCILIATION WITH FORMER WARTIME ENEMIES.

3. THE ATTEMPTS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 00218 01 OF 02 071318Z

LINK ADENAUER WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES BROUGHT CRIES OF ANGUISH FROM THE CDU AND CSU. ONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 00218 02 OF 02 071320Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 NEA-10 /081 W

----- 002999

R 071305Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5484

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 00218

CDU/CSU POLITICIAN CALLED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THE ADMIN-
ISTRATOR OF THE BANKRUPT POLICIES OF FORMER CHANCELLOR
BRANDT RATHER THAN THE ARCHITECT OF POLICIES BUILT UPON
ADENAUER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. STRAUSS LABELED THE SCHMIDT-
SCHEEL STATEMENTS AS ELECTION TACTICS AND QUOTED ADE-
NAUER'S STATEMENT THAT AN SPD VICTORY WOULD MEAN THE
DOWNFALL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. GOVERNMENT PRESS
SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD LATER DENIED THAT CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT WAS ATTEMPTING TO CITE ADENAUER TO PROVE THE
CORRECTNESS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S "OSTPOLITIK."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 00218 02 OF 02 071320Z

4. ASIDE FROM POLITICAL TRIBUTES TO ADENAUER THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS BOOKS AND ARTICLES FROM FORMER FRIENDS AND FOES, INCLUDING "SPIEGEL" EDITOR AUGSTEIN, WHO STATED THAT ADENAUER'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO MODERN GERMAN HISTORY WERE PROBABLY ONLY EQUALED BY BISMARCK. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PASSAGE OF TIME HAS COOLED THE POLITICAL PASSIONS THAT EXISTED DURING ADENAUER'S LIFE-TIME. THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE A FEELING OF NOSTALGIA FOR A TIME AND FOR POLITICIANS OF AN EARLIER AGE.

5. WHILE IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT CDU AND CSU POLITICIANS ARE ATTEMPTING, PARTICULARLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR, TO WRAP THEMSELVES IN THE MANTLE OF ADENAUER'S GREATNESS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT SCHMIDT AND SCHEEL ARE ALSO SEEKING TO IDENTIFY PRESENT POLICIES WITH THOSE OF THEIR OLD POLITICAL FOE. THIS REFLECTS A RECOGNITION THAT ADENAUER HAS EARNED A SECURE PLACE IN GERMAN HISTORY AS A STATESMAN AND AS THE FATHER OF POST-WORLD WAR II GERMAN DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, IT MAY ALSO REFLECT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE FEW POLITICIANS OF HIS STATURE ON THE SCENE TODAY.

6. THE HAPPY COINCIDENCE FOR THE CDU/CSU THAT THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF "DER ALTE'S" BIRTH COMES ON THE EVE OF A NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS FURTHER POLITICIZED THE EVENT. CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL, WHO LACKS THE POLITICAL APPEAL AND POPULARITY OF THE FIRST CDU CHANCELLOR, WANTS TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS THE HEIR TO THE ADENAUER TRADITION PREPARED TO TAKE OVER THE REIGNS OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT HELMUT SCHMIDT PREFERS TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST HELMUT KOHL AND FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS RATHER THAN AGAINST THE MEMORY OF KONRAD ADENAUER (WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "THE ONLY GREAT OPPONENT OF THE SPD TO DATE").
HILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN00218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0202
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760181/aaaactuc.tel
Line Count: 205
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ADENAUER'S BIRTH SUMMARY: THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KONRAD ADENAUER'S
TAGS: PINT, GE, (ADENAUER, KONRAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006